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ABSTRACT

In the period 1983 to 1986, the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA) undertook a study of science achievement in 24 countries at three levels in each school system: the 10-year-old level, typically grade 4 or 5; the 14-year-old level, typically grade 8 or 9; and the final year of secondary school, typically grade 12. This preliminary report presents some initial results from 17 countries including Australia, Canada, England, Finland, Hong Kong, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Korea, Netherlands, Norway, the Philippines, Poland, Singapore, Sweden, Thailand, and the United States. Science achievement tests were constructed collectively by the researchers from the participating countries. The publication presents results for the following topics: (1) the validity of the tests; (2) the mean achievement score for each country at each level; (3) for the 14-year-olds an extra result of the "bottom 25 percent" of children in school; (4) the achievement differences between boys and girls at each level; (5) the between school differences at each level; and (6) the percentage of schools in each country scoring below the lowest school in the highest scoring country. Appendices include descriptions of the test population, methods and sample test items. (CW)

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